AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer over a communications network, the data being routed between the server and client computers by a network node;

the network node having an input to receive data from the server computer, the input being connected to first and second buffer elements, said buffer elements being connected to an output channel of predetermined bandwidth, wherein the first buffer element is preferentially allocated a portion of the output bandwidth and the second buffer element is allocated a remaining portion of the output bandwidth such that packets received in the first buffer element are transmitted in preference to packets received in the second buffer element; the method comprising:

(i) transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the first buffer element of the network node; and

(ii) upon receipt by the server computer of a first control signal from the client computer, transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the second buffer element of the network node.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer as in claim 1, wherein the method comprises the further step of

(iii) reverting to transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the first buffer element of the network node upon receipt by the server computer of a second control signal from the client computer.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer as in claim 1, wherein the first control signal is generated by the client computer in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a first, upper threshold value.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer as in claim 2, wherein the second control signal is generated by the client computer in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data from a server computer to a client computer according to claim 1 wherein:

the communications route between the server computer and the client computer comprises more than one network node; and

the selection of either the first or the second buffer elements in response to a control signal occurs within one or more of the network nodes which comprise the communications route between the server computer and the client computer.

6. (Previously Presented) A data carrier containing computer executable code for loading into a computer for the performance of the method of claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving data at a client computer from a server computer, the data being routed over a communications network by a network node;

the network node having an input to receive data from the server computer, the input being connected to first and second buffer elements, said buffer elements being connected to an output channel of predetermined bandwidth, wherein the first buffer element is preferentially allocated a portion of the output bandwidth and the second buffer element is allocated a remaining portion of the output bandwidth such that packets received in the first buffer element are transmitted in preference to packets received in the second buffer element; the method consisting of:

(i) the client computer receiving data from the server computer via the first buffer element of the network node; and

(ii) the client computer receiving data from the server computer via the second buffer element of the network node in response to the transmission of a first control signal from the client computer to the server computer.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving data at a client computer from a server computer as in claim 7, wherein the method includes the additional step of

(iii) the client computer receiving data from the server computer via the first buffer element of the network node in response to the transmission of a second control signal from the client computer to the server computer.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving data at a client computer from a server computer as in claim 7, wherein the first control signal is generated by the client computer

in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a first, upper threshold value.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving data at a client computer from a server computer as in claim 8, wherein the second control signal is generated by a client computer in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of receiving data at a client computer from a server computer as in claim 7, wherein:

the communications route between the server computer and the client computer comprises more than one network node; and

the selection of either the first or the second buffer elements in response to a control signal occurs within one or more of the network nodes which comprise the communications route between the server computer and the client computer.

12. (Previously Presented) A data carrier containing computer executable code for loading into a computer for the performance of claim 7.

13. (Original) A server computer for transmitting data to a client computer over a communications network, the data being routed by a network node, wherein the data is transmitted from the server as a plurality of data packets;

the server computer in use transmitting data packets containing a first identifier to enable the preferential forwarding of the data packets to the client computer at the network node; and

wherein the server computer is responsive to a first control signal from the client computer to transmit data packets containing a second identifier to disable the preferential forwarding of the data packets to the client computer at the network node.

14. (Previously Presented) A server computer for transmitting data to a client computer as in claim 13, wherein the server computer is additionally responsive to a second control signal from the client computer to transmit data packets containing the first identifier to re-enable the preferential forwarding of the data packets to the client computer at the network node.

15. (New) A server computer for transmitting data to a client computer over a communications network, the data being routed between the server and client computers by a network node;

the network node having an input to receive data from the server computer, the input being connected to first and second buffer elements said buffer elements being connected to an output channel of predetermined bandwidth, wherein the first buffer element is preferentially allocated a portion of the output bandwidth and the second buffer element is allocated a remaining portion of the output bandwidth such that packets received in the first buffer element are transmitted in preference to packets received in the second buffer element;

(i) means for transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the first buffer element of the network node; and

(ii) means for transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the second buffer element of the network node upon receipt by the server computer of a first control signal from the client computer.

16. (New) A server computer as in claim 15 further comprising:

(iii) means for reverting to transmitting data from the server computer to the client computer using the first buffer element of the network node upon receipt by the server computer of a second control signal from the client computer.

17. (New) A server computer as in claim 15 wherein the first control signal is generated by the client computer in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a first, upper threshold value.

18. (New) A server computer as in claim 16 wherein the second control signal is generated by the client computer in response to the level of data stored in a client computer data cache attaining a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value.

19. (New) A server computer as in claim 15 wherein:

the communications route between the server computer and the client computer comprises more than one network node; and

the selection of either the first or the second buffer elements in response to a control signal occurs within one or more of the network nodes which comprise the communications route between the server computer and the client computer.